



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

MEETING MINUTES
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, November 2, 2016
Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.
MINUTES

School Committee

Michael Mackin, Chair-present
Heather Sroka, Vice-Chair-present
Dawn-Marie Ayles, Secretary-present
Wendy Bertrand-present
Meredith Weiss-present

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes-present

Recording Secretary

Liz Petersen

Student Representative

Ron Hyatt-absent

Guests

John Londa-Director of Facilities

Call to Order: the meeting was called to order by Mr. Mackin at 7: 00 p.m. He stated this meeting was being recorded for future broadcast.

Public Comment: Board member Ms. Ayles expressed that homecoming was fabulous. She mentioned feedback from community members regarding viewing of the floats in the future. Hope to be able to view without paying a fee if not attending the game. Superintendent Calmes acknowledged the public feedback and reassured Ms. Ayles and the community that the location of the floats for viewing purposes will be addressed. Appreciate the support from the whole community, and regrets any inconvenience caused. Will be posting photos on the website and Facebook. Ms. Sroka asked why student athletes had to pay to attend the homecoming game? Superintendent Calmes responded that she will investigate the reason and report back.

Chair's Report Mr. Mackin mentioned tomorrow is the last day of early voting, which is fast and easy. Hours are 8am-1pm and 3pm-6pm at Town Hall. Bringing down construction fencing around fields however will not have active use of these until spring. Asked the public to please try to stay off grass fields if possible for preservation purposes.

Review and Approve Warrants: warrants were on the table for signature and one line item transfer was brought forth from the middle school music department. Mr. Sheldon requesting approval to transfer \$750 from middle school band transportation to middle school band supplies as the band would not be utilizing transportation this year. This was typically used in the past for travel to band festivals. This request was reviewed and recommended by Mr. Santry, Principal. Superintendent recommended approval. Motion to approve made by Ms. Bertrand, seconded by Ms. Ayles. Line item transfer passed for signatures from committee.

Review and Approve Minutes:

October 5, Regular Session, October 19, 2016 Executive Session, October 19, Regular Session and October 26, 2016 Workshop Session was presented for approval. All minutes approved by committee.

Superintendent's Report:

- Superintendent's Award- Superintendent Calmes expressed that one of the greatest perks of her job is to recognize scholars every year through the Superintendent's Award. Introduced Brendan R. Tobin as this year's Superintendent award recipient. The Superintendent stated it was a privilege and an honor to acknowledge Brendan who is such a vital part of the community, school and Boy Scouts. She explained his various attributes as a top achiever, providing a great deal of community service, and having distinguished leadership skills. Has excelled in honors and AP courses, elected president of his class as freshmen and has been re-elected every year since. Was distinguished speaker for groundbreaking, topping off ceremony, and dedication ceremony for the new Lunenburg Middle-High School. His achievements are extensive including achieving Eagle Scout status, treasurer of the order of arrow, senior patrol leader camp counselor and lifeguard, member of world hunger task force, National Honor Society member, and athlete in cross country. He has received numerous academic awards including magna cum laude in the National Latin exams. Has been a player buddy in the Miracle League since 2012. Superintendent Calmes presented the award to Brendan. He expressed that he was humbled to receive this award and extended his thanks to the Superintendent, LHS faculty, Mr. Spadafino for all of the support he had received. A special thank you was extended to his parents saying that the values and foundation of families are shaping the students of today. Thanked fellow classmates saying "We are all in this together." The Superintendent congratulated Thomas and Carolyn Tobin for their son receiving this award.
- Congratulated recipients from LHS who have received the John and Abigail Adams scholarship. Read aloud a list of student names achieving this honor. Commended Nathan Charland, LHS student for his commendation from the National Merit program.
- Thanked all participants of the recent Lunenburg Middle-High School dedication ceremony. Extended appreciation to U.S. representative Ms. Niki Tsongas, who had arranged for the U.S. flag from the former Lunenburg High School to fly over the Capitol building. Expressed thanks to Mr. Eric Vickery for his spectacular aerial video, Mr. Malandrinos for his construction progress slideshow, and Mr. Londa for all of his assistance. Appreciative of all vendor donations from Flat hill orchards for apples, Hollis Hills farms for cider donuts, and Price's Cider Mill and Ms. Judy Haley for local cider. Acknowledged café personnel, custodial, boy and girl scouts, student speakers, boards and committees, and tax payers for making all of this possible.
- The Superintendent introduced Mr. Londa who she had asked to provide a solar project update. Mr. Londa indicated that the Board of Selectmen had signed off on two projects last Tuesday during their meeting. One is a net metering project with Clean Footprint Inc. This will provide a 6.5 cents savings for every kilowatt hour over a 20 year period. The second project with Solect Energy is for two rooftop solar units to be installed on the DPW garage and Lunenburg Middle-High School. This will lock us in at the rate of 8.3 cents per kilowatt hour contingent upon construction being completed by the deadline of January 8, 2017. This timeline is due to the SREC program that will be discontinued soon. If deadline is missed will be at approximately 10 cents per kilowatt hour instead. Overall this will generate a 33% electricity savings for the new school.

Student Representative's Report: no report discussed due to absence.

School Building Committee Report: Mr. Mackin reported the building project is within its last stages. Substantial completion of stage 2. Greenhouse will be operational this week. Punch list items still being addressed. Student parking lot final course of paving being installed, lines to be painted this weekend. Courts have been installed. Final painting of these in spring due to temperatures. Winterizing fields, following up on small details in regards to air conditioning glitches. Contractors have been extremely responsive. Next SBC meeting November 9th. Have scheduled meetings in December & January, then will progress to closeout mode-auditing, final bills, etc. with Town Hall. Some items will remain open through the spring. Still on time and under budget.

New Business

Discussion

- a. Facility Use Fees: Ms. Sroka commented that she recalled discussing and taking action on this topic this spring. Superintendent Calmes and committee acknowledged that there had been a discussion but no action. Mr. John Londa explained the current facility rates are based on a document from 2007, and has not changed since then. Proposing to have rates in effect on January 1 2017. Will be minimal rate increase of 2%. Have been holding on issue of a fee for grass field use until guidance is received from the Parks Dept. Have not received any new information from the department regarding this concern. Certain groups did not fall into the categories outlined within the document, such as for-profit organizations sponsored by non-profit groups in town. Concerning field lights, will have 3 different field rates proposed. This covers the cost of electricity. Can track usage online through Mosco software. This does not reflect any demand charges. Non- profit Lunenburg youth groups can use these facilities with no cost unless there are field lights used or we have to employ a custodian on a Saturday. Mr. Londa recommends this facility rate increase as this is in line with other communities. Ms. Ayles asked if the rates would be the same across the entire district. Response was yes, this was not just for the new building. Ms. Weiss asked if we could monitor and report whether people are more attracted to utilizing LMHS versus other buildings within the district. Concerned about preservation of the new building over time if there was heavy usage. Mr. Londa explained he tries to urge organizations to use the building that is related to the age appropriate activity. Parking is also a concern that is monitored. Additional concern is being fair regarding custodial overtime. Ms. Sroka asked if it made a difference regarding which custodian is chosen to provide overtime. Mr. Londa responded that there are different rates. For example, a senior custodian's rate is \$32 and hour versus a junior custodian which is \$24 per hour. Changes this year in basketball groups-running two games side by side in different buildings relating to age appropriateness. Principals part of approval process when requests are submitted through Schooldude. Superintendent Calmes indicated that Mr. Londa will have to review this further to assess the size of the building and number of custodians needed and cost. Mr. Londa mentioned he provides an estimate in advance of event to the organization. Superintendent's recommendation is for discussion of this topic tonight with a vote taken at the next meeting. Will post for public comment/feedback.

Old Business:

Action

- a. FY 18 Capital Plan: Mr. John Londa has come to the conclusion that this plan presented is close to what we need. Recommends taking off the building envelope upgrade, as he thinks this will most likely be funded through the Green Community Grant. Highest priority right now is the Turkey Hill Elementary School asbestos abatement. This would include the central hallway and first floor spaces. Due to

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spray on asbestos above ceiling, currently extremely limited in being able to access the ceiling for electrical, closed circuit t.v. , etc. Floor tiles crumbling also, which is only barrier between asbestos. Other request is in regards to technology. Ms. Weiss asked Mr. Londa to refresh her memory regarding technology item. Aimed at elementary and primary mobile labs, laptops for faculty, included in cycle of replacement. Motion to adopt FY18 capital plan made by Ms. Sroka, seconded by Ms. Bertrand. Vote: Unanimous. Will put together plan b sheets to be ready for presentation at the town capital plan meeting.

- b. Second Reading – History/Social Studies Curriculum Update: Superintendent Calmes reported to the committee that we have not received community feedback, although this has been posted. Motion to waive second reading by Ms. Bertrand, seconded by Ms. Sroka. Vote: Unanimous.
- c. Adult Education/Lifelong Learning Advisory – Additional Appointments for Consideration: Superintendent Calmes indicated Mr. Truax, LHS faculty member, mentioned that he would like to be a support on this committee. He would be limited to 20 hours of support through his master teacher program. In addition, Ms. Anne Gilman had expressed her interest in this advisory, which had been confirmed. If both new interested members are appointed, this will complete full membership of this advisory. Motion to appoint members by Ms. Weiss, seconded by Ms. Ayles. Vote: Unanimous. The Superintendent indicated the next step will be to schedule meetings.
- d. Ballot Question #2: Mr. Mackin asked the committee to adopt the language drafted at the workshop regarding the statement of their position concerning ballot question 2, in order to open the discussion. Ms. Sroka and Ms. Ayles recused themselves from the proceedings. Ms. Weiss read her entire disclosure statement aloud, and stated that she feels she can perform her official duties fairly. This disclosure statement was sent to the Town Clerk yesterday. Ms. Bertrand asked if this was created due to guidance from the Ethics Commission. Ms. Weiss explained the Ethics Commission had mentioned this was one course of action she could take. Mr. Mackin took a motion to adopt the language stated in the statement to open the discussion. Ms. Bertrand motioned, Ms. Weiss seconded. Ms. Bertrand read aloud all draft language included in the statement. Mr. Mackin opened for discussion. Ms. Weiss asked if the committee should be more specific in their language regarding Lunenburg students attending local charter schools. Agreed to revised language. Question as to whether the number of members that voted should be outlined. Agreed to include number of members voting. Revised preferred language to say “The Lunenburg School Committee, by a vote of 3 to 0 with one member recusing and one member abstaining, cannot recommend a “yes” vote on Ballot Question 2. “ Mr. Mackin asked members voting to adopt language as stated. All said “I” to adopt language. Mr. Mackin thanked everyone for their effort.

Public Comment: Ms. Mary Foyle, LHS faculty and LEA President really appreciated the time and effort the committee had shown during the workshop and meetings to draft appropriate language and educate the public. Ms. Sroka read a text from a community member, inferring that if the district reduced the amount of time spent on the ballot question and instead pursued why students were leaving the district for alternate options, it would be more helpful. Ms. Sroka urged community members to email her at hsroka@lunenburgonline.com for comment on this subject.

Reports:

- a. Finance Committee: has not met.
- b. School Councils: Ms. Ayles reported the Primary school council met and discussed handbook changes which were minimal. Report cards being finalized formatted and put into Powerschool. Took tour of Primary school to see how classrooms are being re-utilized as original planned

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spaces. Will revisit report cards at next meeting. Ms. Sroka reported THES discussed report cards. Currently working on goals, trying to figure out new roles and leadership. Ms. Weiss reported LMS began discussing goals, considered school improvement plan and best scheduling of 8th grade. Discussed MCAS scores and level 2 status, PD on training of new equipment and troubleshooting. Great Books training for staff, social/emotional learning, activities and clubs being offered to students (read aloud), GSA is in initial stages of discussion.

c. PTO-Ms. Weiss reported they met this week for part 2 of the discussion from the last meeting, gifting \$8,000 per school, however all checks being held currently pending a legal situation. Ideas for funding are for physical activity and outdoor equipment. Change noted per School Committee meeting on 11-16-16 that 338 tickets have been sold for the Trolls movie event, not \$338 in ticket sales as previously recorded. May open up 3rd theater. In spring, possibly family bingo night, adult trivia night, etc.

d. Policy Sub-Committee Meeting: have not met.

e. Capital Planning Committee: Ms. Sroka reported will meet on November 15th.

f. Wellness Advisory Committee: Ms. Bertrand reported a large focus on policy, allergies & all schools. Need to re-evaluate policies such as latex and food allergies within schools. Mental health awareness- have been working on for a few years, several pilots instituted last year. Want to ensure this is moving forward. Teachers committed to doing 3 homework free weekends this year, first will be November 11th. Joe Rager has shared feedback as to how much this means to students, staff is supportive. Expanding on 10th grade book selections as several have mental health themes. Last year Ms. Maillet, LHS faculty and Ms. Foyle spearheaded mental health awareness discussions relating to themes from the novels, expanding this year. Guidance piloted 4 consecutive Fridays in which students participated in a lifelines suicide prevention program during physical education. Recommendation from students was to find a different time to do this, but valued the program. Break from depression curriculum, will identify 9th and 10th grade study periods and half the block will address this program. Student Advisory Wellness Team supported in part by the Shine Initiative and the Wahlberg Foundation, may be attending the Opioid Summit for 7-12 graders.

g. PAC/SAL: have not met.

h. Reuse Committee: Mr. Mackin reported they will be meeting on November 21st.

i. Start-Time Sub-Committee: Superintendent Calmes reported they will be scheduling a meeting shortly.

j. Town Manager Selection Committee: On November 8th and 15th, interviews will take place at Town Hall from 6pm-9pm.

Topics for Future Discussion: none noted.

Executive Session: Mr. Mackin moved to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and litigation, with the intention of not returning to regular session.

Roll Call

Michael Mackin- yes

Heather Sroka-yes

Wendy Bertrand-yes

Dawn-Marie Ayles-yes

Meredith Weiss-yes

Adjournment: Ms. Sroka motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Ayles. Regular session adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Petersen, Recording Secretary

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